

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2768**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 29 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2601

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2601 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Expand the time period by which a civil action for childhood sexual abuse may be initiated; and
- (2) Authorize a court to require personnel of legal entities to undergo training on trauma-informed response.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Rainbow Family 808, Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center, Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Imua Alliance, Hawaii Association for Justice, Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, YWCA Kaua'i, and fourteen individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General and Hawaii Insurers Council.

Your Committee finds that it is well documented that children of sexual abuse delay their disclosure of abuse, oftentimes for many years, as many victims are not ready to speak on their trauma



as children. This is also true for children who suffer chronic abuse within their homes by a close family member who grooms the child to keep their abuse secret. The trauma of withholding abuse can have lasting effects, impacting the ability to disclose instances of abuse as the child grows older. For some survivors, it may take decades before the individual feels comfortable and safe enough to disclose being abused. Therefore, this measure provides an extended window for survivors of childhood sexual abuse to disclose the abuse to ensure each survivor has an opportunity to seek justice and accountability.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2601 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,

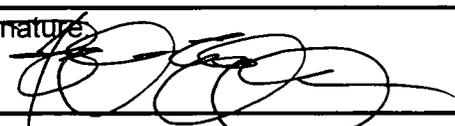


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2601	JDC	02/16/24		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)				✓
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.			✓	
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	1	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes